AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled).

13. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a pathology affecting the internal tissues of an eye, excluding the pathologies affecting the optic nerve, comprising the administration of a composition comprising from 10 to 500 μg/ml of nerve growth factor over ~~onto~~ the ocular surface of a subject in need thereof, wherein said nerve growth factor passes through the external tissues of said eye to said internal tissues.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the composition comprises the nerve growth factor in a pharmaceutically acceptable ophthalmic carrier and is in a form selected from the group consisting of solutions, suspensions, ointments, gels, or creams.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of an ocular erodible insert, a polymeric membrane reservoir system to be placed in the conjunctival sac, or in combination with a local bandage and a therapeutic contact lens.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the pathology affecting the internal tissues of an eye is selected from pathologies affecting the sclera, ciliary bodies, crystalline lens, retina, ~~optic nerve,~~ vitreous body, and choroidea.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the pathology has a trophic, post-traumatic, infective, post-surgical, autoimmune, dystrophic, or degenerative origin, or is originated by laser treatment.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the composition is in the

form of an ophthalmic solution.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the ophthalmic solution contains from 200-250 μg/ml of nerve growth factor.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the nerve growth factor is of murine or human origin, or is a human recombinant nerve growth factor.

21. (Currently amended). A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a pathology affecting the internal tissues of an ~~the~~ eye, excluding retinal pathologies and pathologies affecting the optic nerve, comprising the administration of a composition comprising nerve growth factor over the ocular surface of a subject in need thereof, wherein said nerve growth factor passes through the external tissues of said eye to said internal tissues.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the pathology affecting the internal tissues of the eye is selected from pathologies affecting the sclera, ciliary bodies, crystalline lens, retina, ~~optic nerve,~~ vitreous body, and choroidea.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the pathology pathologies has a trophic, post-traumatic, infective, post-surgical, autoimmune, dystrophic, or degenerative origin, or is originated by laser treatment.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the composition contains from 200-250 μg/ml of nerve growth factor.

25. (New) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a pathology affecting the internal tissues of an eye, comprising the administration of a composition comprising from 200 to 500 μg/ml of nerve growth factor over the ocular surface of a subject in need thereof, wherein said nerve growth factor passes through the external tissues of said eye to said internal tissues.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the composition comprises the nerve growth factor in a pharmaceutically acceptable ophthalmic carrier and is in a form selected from the group consisting of solutions, suspensions, ointments, gels, or creams.

27. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of an ocular erodible insert, a polymeric membrane reservoir system to be placed in the conjunctival sac, or in combination with a local bandage and a therapeutic contact lens.

28. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the pathology affecting the internal tissues of an eye is selected from pathologies affecting the sclera, ciliary bodies, crystalline lens, retina, optic nerve, vitreous body, and choroidea.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the pathology has a trophic, post-traumatic, infective, post-surgical, autoimmune, dystrophic, or degenerative origin, or is originated by laser treatment.

30. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the composition is in the form of an ophthalmic solution.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the ophthalmic solution contains from 200 to 250 μg/ml of nerve growth factor.

32. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the nerve growth factor is of murine or human origin, or is a human recombinant nerve growth factor.

33. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the pathology affecting the internal tissues of an eye is a pathology affecting the optic nerve.

34. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the pathology affecting the internal tissues of an eye is a pathology affecting the retina.

35. (New) The method according to claim 33 wherein the ophthalmic solution contains from 200 to 250 μg/ml of nerve growth factor.

36. (New) The method according to claim 34 wherein the ophthalmic solution contains from 200 to 250 μg/ml of nerve growth factor.